

**Claims:**

1. A photoacoustic detector, comprising at least
  - a first chamber ( $V_0$ ) suppliable with a gas to be analyzed,
- 5    - a window for letting modulated and/or pulsed infrared radiation and/or light in the first chamber ( $V_0$ ), and
  - means for detecting pressure variations created in the first chamber by absorbed infrared radiation and/or light, **characterized** in that the means for detecting pressure variations created in the first chamber by absorbed infrared radiation and/or
- 10   light comprise at least
  - an aperture provided in the wall of the first chamber ( $V_0$ ), in communication with which is provided a door adapted to be movable in response to the movement of a gas, and
  - means for a contactless measurement of the door movement.
- 15    2. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in claim 1, **characterized** in that the door has a surface area which is at most equal to that of the aperture provided in the first chamber ( $V_0$ ).
- 20    3. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in claim 1 or 2, **characterized** in that the door is at least by one side mounted on a frame structure encircling the side faces of the door.
- 25    4. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the door and the frame are fabricated from silicon.
- 30    5. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the means for a contactless measurement of the door movement comprise:
  - an optical measuring system, comprising at least one or more light sources for illuminating the door or a part thereof and one or more detectors for receiving light reflected from the door and for measuring the door movement as optical angular and/or translatory measurement, or
  - a capacitive measuring system, whereby the door or a part thereof is coated with a metal or the door is fabricated from an electrically highly conductive material, and
- 35    said measuring system comprising a metal film or a metal-coated diaphragm set in the proximity of the door, as well as means for measuring the capacitance variations of a capacitor established by the door and the metal film.

6. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in claim 5, **characterized** in that the light source of the measuring system comprises a laser.
- 5 7. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in claim 5 or 6, **characterized** in that the detector of the measuring system comprises a double sensor.
8. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in any of claims 5-7, **characterized** in that the light source and the detector are designed as a part of an interferometer.
- 10 9. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in any of claims 5-8, **characterized** in that the means of a contactless measurement of the door movement are provided in a second chamber (V), which constitutes a measuring space with a volume  $V$  and which is in communication with the first chamber by way of the first chamber's
- 15 aperture.
10. A photoacoustic detector as set forth in claim 9, **characterized** in that in communication with the second chamber is further provided a third chamber which is identical to the first chamber in terms of size and has an aperture which is
- 20 identical to that included in the first chamber and connects the third chamber with the second chamber, said aperture of the third chamber being closed with a door similar to that closing the aperture of the first chamber, the movement of said door being measured in a manner similar to that used for measuring the movement of the door closing the first chamber aperture, as well as means for calculating the
- 25 amplitudes of an actual measuring signal measured from the sensor arranged in the first chamber aperture and a reference signal measured from the sensor arranged in the third chamber aperture, and for working out a difference therebetween.
11. A sensor for a photoacoustic detector, **characterized** in that the sensor
- 30 comprises a panel-like skirt element serving as a door frame, and a door separated from the panel-like skirt element by means of a gap.
12. A sensor as set forth in claim 11, **characterized** in that the sensor is arrangeable in communication with a chamber included in a photoacoustic detector and
- 35 containing a gas to be analyzed, such that the door is moved by pressure variations created in the chamber by absorbed infrared radiation and/or light.

13. A sensor as set forth in claim 11 or 12, **characterized** in that the sensor does not comprise sensors fixedly mounted thereon and/or fixedly arranged in communication therewith for detecting and/or measuring the door movement.

- 5 14. A method in the optimization of a door used as a sensor for a photoacoustic detector, **characterized** in that the optimization of the amplitude of a door movement is implemented by applying the optimization equation:

$$A_x(\omega) \approx \frac{P_0 \Delta T / T_0}{\rho d \omega_0^2 + \frac{P_0 A}{2V_0}}, \quad \text{when } \omega < \omega_0$$

10  $A_x(\omega) \approx \frac{P_0 \Delta T / T_0}{\rho d \omega^2 + \frac{P_0 A}{2V_0}}, \quad \text{when } \omega > \omega_0$

15 15. A method as set forth in claim 14, **characterized** in that optimization of the amplitude  $A_x(\omega)$  is effected by means of  $\omega_0$ ,  $A$  and  $d$ , especially by striving to reduce the values thereof.